

Introduced by Senator Haynes

May 17, 1999

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to child sexual abuse.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, as introduced, Haynes. Child sexual abuse.

This measure would respectfully urge the President and Congress to reject and condemn any suggestions that sexual relations between children and adults are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive, reprehensible, and punishable by law.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Children are a precious gift and
2 responsibility; and
3 WHEREAS, The spiritual, physical, and mental
4 well-being of children is our sacred duty; and
5 WHEREAS, No segment of our society is more critical
6 to the future of human survival and society than our
7 children; and
8 WHEREAS, It is the obligation of all public
9 policymakers not only to support, but also to defend the
10 health and rights of parents, families, and children; and
11 WHEREAS, Information endangering to children is
12 being made public and, in some instances, may be given
13 unwarranted or unintended credibility through release
14 under professional titles or through professional
15 organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, Elected officials have a duty to inform and
2 counter actions they consider damaging to children,
3 parents, families, and society; and

4 WHEREAS, California has made sexual molestation of
5 a child a felony and has declared parents who sexually
6 molest their children to be unfit; and

7 WHEREAS, Virtually all studies in this area, including
8 those published by the American Psychological
9 Association, condemn child sexual abuse as criminal and
10 harmful to children; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association
12 has recently published a study that suggests that sexual
13 relationships between adults and willing children are less
14 harmful than believed and might even be positive for
15 “willing” children; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association is
17 a highly respected organization, and by publishing a
18 professional opinion, the association lends legitimacy to
19 any issue; and

20 WHEREAS, The publication of the study, “A
21 Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of
22 Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” thus lends
23 legitimacy to the deviant issue of pedophilia; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully
27 urges the President and Congress to reject and condemn,
28 in the strongest honorable written and vocal terms
29 possible, any suggestions that sexual relations between
30 children and adults are anything but abusive, destructive,
31 exploitive, reprehensible, and punishable by law; and be
32 it further

33 *Resolved,* That the Legislature condemns and
34 denounces all suggestions in the recently published study
35 by the American Psychological Association entitled “A
36 Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of
37 Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” that
38 indicates sexual relationships between adults and
39 “willing” children are less harmful than believed and



1 might even be positive for “willing” children; and be it
2 further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages competent
4 investigations to continue to research the effects of child
5 sexual abuse using the best methodology so that the
6 public and public policymakers may act upon accurate
7 information; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests that the
9 American Psychological Association denounce the report
10 it recently published regarding child sexual abuse; and be
11 it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests California
13 defense attorneys and California courts to disregard the
14 study when dealing with cases involving child abuse and
15 child molestation; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
17 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice
18 President of the United States, the Governor of
19 California, the majority leader of the Senate, the Speaker
20 of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
21 Representative from California in the Congress of the
22 United States.

